ARTICLES

OF

Visitation and Enquiry,

CONCERNING

MATTERS ECCLESIASTICAL,

Exhibited to the

Miniſters and Church-Wardens of

every Pariſh within the Arch-deaconry of

WORCESTER,

AT THE

VISITATION

OF THE

Reverend *William Worth*, Batchelour of Divinitie, Arch-Deacon of *WORCESTER*, *Anno Dom.* 1706.

OXFORD,

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Articles to be inquired of, and answered unto, by the Church-Wardens in the Arch-deaconry of *Worcester*.

TIT. I.

Concerning Churches, Chappels, with the Ornaments and Furniture thereunto belonging.

Can. 85. 1. IS your Parish Church, or Chappel, and the Steeple or Tower thereof, in sufficient repair? Are the Roof, the Windows, the Floor, and Seats thereof, kept well and decently? Hath any of the Lead, Timber, or Bells, of your Church or Chappel, been imbezell'd, or sold? And by whom?

Can. 81, 82. 2. Is there a decent Font of Stone, with a Cover? Do't the Minister baptize publickly in the Font? Is there a decent Communion-Table in your Chancel, with a decent Carpet, and another Covering of White Linnen, to be spread thereon at the time of the Administration of the Lord's Supper? And have you a Silver Chalice or Communion Cup, with a Cover to it? Have you one or more Flagons, and a Bread-plate, and a fair Linnen Cloth to cover it? Have any of these been profaned by common use?

Can. 83, 58, 80. 3. Have your a convenient Seat or Pew, and a decent Surplice, wherein to read Divine Service? Have you a large Bible of the last *Stat.* Translation, and a Book of Common-Prayer, published *Anno* 1662, or since? Have you a Pulpit with a decent Cloth and Cushion? Have you the Book of Homilies set forth by Authority, and a Printed Table *Can.* 99. of the Degrees wherein Marriages are prohibited, and a Book of 58. Canons and Constitutions Ecclesiastical, with the XXXIX Articles?

Can. 70. 4. Have you a Register-Book in Parchment, of Christenings, Burials, and Marriages? And are the same by your Minister carefully registred therein weekly in the presence of the Church-Wardens, and is a true Copy thereof yearly sent into the Bishops Registry, subscribed by the Minister and Church Wardens?

Can. 89. 5. Have your a Book for the Church-Wardens Accounts? Have you an Inventory of all things belonging to the Church? As also, a Chest with Locks and Keys, wherein to keep the said Books and the aforemention'd Furniture?

6. Have you an account of all Charities, given for any Religious,

or

or other publick Uſe, within your Pariſh? Have you alſo Copies of all Wills, and other Inſtruments that concern any ſuch charitable Gift; or at leaſt, of ſuch part of thoſe Wills or Inſtruments as concern the ſame; fairly entred in any of your ſaid Pariſh Books, and atteſted by the Miniſters and Church Wardens?

7. Have you a Table containing the Names of all thoſe well diſpoſed Men and Women, that have given any part of that Eſtate which God has bleſſed them with, to any ſuch Uſes within your Pariſh, fairly written, and hanging up in your Church, or Chappel; ſo that whoſoever ſhall read it, may ſee their good works, and be thereby ſtirred up to glorify God in like manner?

TIT. II.

Concerning the Church-Yard, the Houſes, Glebes, and Tythes, belonging to the Church.

1. IS your Church Yard ſufficiently fenced and decently kept? Hath any perſon encroached upon the ſame, or made any Door in to it, or cut down any Trees that were growing there?

2. Is the Houſe of your Parſon, Vicar, or Curate, and the Outhouſes, in good repair? Hath any part of them been let fall, or pulled down without Licenſe? Have there been any encroachments made upon the Glebe, or any of the Ancient marks or bounds thereof removed? Hath any part been alienated, or changed? And by whom?

3. Have you a true and perfect Terrier in Parchment, mentioning all the Glebe-Lands, Gardens. Orchards,-Tenements, or Cottages, belonging to your Parſonage or Vicarage? As alſo a Note of ſuch Penſions, Rate-Tythes, and Portions of Tythes, or other yearly Profits, (either within or without your Pariſh,) as belong thereunto? Have any of the ſame been with-held from your Miniſter? And by whom, as you know, or have heard? And is your Terrier laid up in the Biſhop's Regiſtry, and a Copy of it kept in the Church Cheſt, ſigned by the Miniſter, Church-Wardens, and other chief Inhabitants? *Can.* 48.

TIT. III.

Concerning Miniſters.

1. IS the Miniſter of your Church or Chappelry in Holy Orders, and duely qualified according to the Laws of this Realm? Hath *Act of Uniform.*

your

Can 48. *Stat.* 13. *Eliz.* c. 12. your Parson, or Vicar been legally inducted? Hath he read the thirty nine Articles within the time appointed by Law, and declared his Assent thereto? Is he commonly said or suspected to have obtained either his Benefice or Orders by any Simoniacal Compact? *Can.* 48. Is he Licensed by the Bishop?

Can. 74, 75. 2. Is your Minister a Man of a Studious, Sober, Peaceable, and Exemplary Life? Is he Grave, Modest and Regular, in his outward Demeanour and Apparel? Does he resort to Taverns, or Ale houses? Does he spend his time in Gaming, or Sports? Is he in any kind whatsoever disorderly, and scandalous? Does he so govern his Family, as to Religion and Manners, that both he and they may give good Example to others? *Office of Ord.*

Can. 45, 47, 48. 3. Hath your Minister any other Ecclesiastical Benefice? Is he, as the Law requires, Resident among you? Doth he preach every Lord's Day in the Morning, and expound some part of the Catechism in the afternoon, unless hindred by Sickness, or reasonable Absence? How long hath he been absent from his Cure in every year since the last Visitation? Who supplies the Cure during his Absence? Doth he duely perform all the Offices of the Church? Doth he serve any other Cure besides? Hath he a Competent Allowance?

Act of Uniform. 4. Doth your Parson, Vicar, or Curate in reading the daily Morning and Evening Service, Administration of the Holy Sacraments, Celebration of Marriage, Churching of Women after Child-birth, Visitation of the Sick, Burial of the Dead, use the Form and Words prescribed in the Book of Common-Prayer without any Addition, Diminution, or Alteration? Does he read distinctly, and reverently? Does he use all such Rites and Ceremonies as are appointed in that Book, so far as you have observed?

Can. 58. 5. Doth your Minister at the Reading and Celebrating of Divine Offices in your Church or Chappel wear the Surplice, together with such other Habit as is suitable to his Degree?

Can. 61. *Can.* 66. *Can.* 67, 68, 69. 6. Doth he refuse, neglect, or delay, the Baptism of any Infant, especially in danger of Death? Is there any Child past Infancy, or other Person grown up through your Ministers default, yet remaining Unbaptiz'd in your Parish? Doth he give Publick Baptism to any without God-fathers and God-mothers? In case he Baptizes any at home, when need shall compell him so to do; does he take care that such Children afterwards be brought to Church with God-fathers and God-mothers, and be there admitted into the Congregation of Christ's flock, as is required in the Office of private Baptisme?

7. Doth

7. Doth your Minister Celebrate the Lord's Supper so often in every year, that every Parishioner may receive at the least three times a year, of which Easter to be one? Does he give notice on the Sunday before the Communion, reading one of the Exhortations prescribed? And doth he keep back those who ought not to be admitted, giving an Account of them to the Bishop? *Can.* 21, 22, 56. *Rubr. before Communion.*

8. Doth your Minister diligently instruct the Youth of your Parish in the Church-Catechism? And doth he prepare and present them, being so instructed, to be confirmed by the Bishop? *Can.* 26. *Can.* 59. *Rubr. before Confirm.*

9. Hath he presumed to Marry any Persons in Private Houses? Hath he married any such as, being under Age, have not the Consent of their Parents or Guardians? Hath he married any without Banns first published on three Sundays or Holy-days in the Church; unless he had a Licence so to do? Or hath he marryed at any other Hours than between Eight and twelve in the Morning? *Can.* 29. *Can.* 62, 63.

10. Does your Minister Church any Woman that has brought forth a Child notoriously known to be begotten in Adultery or Fornication, without first acquainting the Ordinary?

11. Is he careful to visit the Sick in your Parish, especially those whom he hears to be in danger of Death? Does he endeavour to prepare them for the due receiving of the holy Communion? And does he exhort them to Charity and good Works, as the Rubrick requires?

12. Does he refuse to bury any Corps that is brought to the Church, or delay the doing of it after notice given, unless it be of one that died Unbaptized, or under Excommunication, or of one that murthered him or her self?

13. Doth your Minister endeavour to reduce Popish Recusants, and other Sectaries, from their Errors, by proper and seasonable Application, if any such be in your Parish?

14. Doth your Minister declare to the People every Sunday, at the time appointed in the Communion-Service, the several Holy-days, and Fasting-days, in the Week following? And is he an Example to others in observing them? *Can.* 64.

15. Doth he upon the daies appointed by Law, read the Act of Parliament made in the year 1695, against prophane Cursing, and Swearing; and her Majesties Proclamation for Encouragement of Piety, and punishing of Vice, Prophaness, and Immorality?

TIT. IV.

Concerning the Pariſhioners.

Can. 109. 1. IS there any Perſon in your Pariſh that lieth under a common fame, or ſuſpicion, of Adultery, Fornication, or Inceſt? Is there any common Drunkard within your Pariſh, or common Swearer, or Blaſphemer of God's Name? Is there any that is noted to be a common Railer, an unclean or filthy Talker, or Sower of Sedition, Faction, and Diſcord among the Neighbours? Name ſuch as you know of any of theſe Sorts.

2. Are there any Perſons living in your Pariſh, who under pretence of Liberty of Conſcience, or otherwiſe, wholly neglect all publick Worſhip of God, or do not Aſſemble together in ſuch way and manner as is either required by the Law, or tolerated by the late Act?

Can. 112. 3. Are there any, who profeſs to live in the Communion of the Church of *England*, that do not bring their Children to be Baptized, or that neglect coming to the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, being of Age fit to receive it?

Can. 59. 4. Are there in your Pariſh any Parents that neglect their duty, in not cauſing their Children, that are of fit age, to come to be Catechizd in the Church? Are there any Maſters or Miſtreſſes that do not ſend their Servants or Apprentices, being ſuch as have not performed that duty already? Are there any ſuch young People that refuſe to learn their Catechiſm, or to come and make that publick Profeſſion of the Chriſtian Religion?

Can. 9. 5. Are there any living within your Pariſh as Man and Wife, who are within the Degrees prohibited? Are there any that being lawfully Married, and not ſeparated or divorced by courſe of Law, do not cohabit together?

Rubr. 6. Are there any married Women in your Pariſh, who, after their delivery from the Peril of Child-birth, do not make their publick Thankſgiving to God?

Can. 18. 7. Doth every Pariſhioner in your Church or Chappel, during the whole time of Divine Service, and alſo of Preaching the Word of God, demean themſelves reverently, uncovering their Heads, and kneeling at Prayers, and at the Sacrament; and ſtanding up when the Creed and Goſpel are read?

Can. 85. 8. Are there any that refuſe to pay their duty for *Eaſter*-Offerings, or refuſe to contribute to the Rates made for repair of your Church, or Chappel, or any thing thereunto belonging?

9. Hath any Person refused to admitt, or hinder'd, or caused to be hinder'd, any Minister sufficiently authorized, from reading Prayers or Preaching in your Church or Chapel, or have procured or permitted any Person not authorized to read Prayers or Preach there? *Can.* 48, 50.

10. Did any, by their last Wills or Testaments, leave any Legacy to your Church or Chappel, or to the use of the Poor, or to any other Pious and Charitable purposes, which hath been mispent or imbezelled? And by whom? Do you know of any Charitable Gift, or any Church or Parish Stock, that is either wasted or conceal'd? And by whom?

11. Do you know of any Wills of Persons deceased that are kept conceal'd or unprov'd? Or of any Goods of Persons dying Intestate, that are administer'd without lawfull Authority?

12. Do you know, or have you heard of any in your Parish, who having the Presentation of an Ecclesiastical Living, hath made any Simoniacal Compact or Gain thereby; either in Mony, or by Reserving any part of the Tithes or Glebe belonging to the Benefice?

13. Have any Pews or Seats been erected in your Church or Chappel, without Leave from the Ordinary? Is there any Strife or Contention about Seats in the Church? Have any Persons made or occasion'd any Riot, Clamour, or Disturbance, in the Church at any time? *Can.* 18, 19.

TIT. V.

Concerning Parish-Clerks and Sextons.

1. HAve you belonging to your Church or Chappel, a Parish-Clerk, Aged Twenty One Years at the least? Is he of honest sober life and conversation? Is he sufficient or able to perform his duty in reading, writing, and singing? Is he chosen by your Minister, or if not, by whom? Doth he duely attend in all Divine Services at the Church? Are his Wages duely paid unto him? Or who with holdeth the same from him? *Can.* 91.

2. Doth your Sexton diligently do his duty, in keeping the Church clean and decent, in tolling and ringing the Bells before Divine Service?

TIT. VI.

Concerning Hospitals, School-Masters, and Schools.

1. WHat Hospitals, Alms House, or Free-School, hath been founded in your Parish? Are they so order'd in their Revenue and use, as the Founders appointed, and the Law of the Land allows?

Can. 77, 78, 79. 2. What School-Master, private or publick, is there in your Parish? Is he Licensed by the Bishop? Doth he teach his Scholars the Church-Catechism? Doth he cause them, upon Sundays and Holy-days, orderly to repair to your Church or Chappel; and see that they behave themselves there quietly and reverently, during the time of Divine Service and Sermon?

3. *H.* 8. c. 11. 3. Do any in your Parish practise Physic, Chyrurgery, or Midwifery, without Licence from the Ordinary?

TIT. VII.

Concerning Church-Wardens and Sidemen.

Can. 89. 1. ARE the Church-Wardens of your Parish yearly and duely chosen by the joint consent of your Minister & Parishioners? Or one of them by your Minister, and the other by the Parishioners?

Ibid. 2. Have the former and last Church-Wardens given up their Accounts to the Parish, and deliver'd up to the succeeding Church-Wardens the Monies remaining in their hands, together with all other things belonging to your Church or Chappel?

Rubr. after Commun. 3. You are to remember that it is your Office to provide against every Communion, appointed in your Church or Chappel, a sufficient quantity of fine white Bread, and good Wine, according to the number of Communicants, at the charge of the Parish.

TIT. VIII.

Concerning Ecclesiastical Officers.

Can. 38. 1. DOth any such Officer pretend to Authorize, or permit any one coming to reside in this Arch-deaconry, to Preach, Read Lectures, Catechise, or Administer the Sacrament, or to execute any other Ecclesiastical Function, unless he first consent and Subscribe to the three Articles mention'd, *Can.* 36. in Presence of the Bishop of the Diocess?

2 JY 58

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